

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 06841 271448Z

43

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00

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AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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DISTO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, CCD, MX, BR

SUBJ: CCD - 724TH PLENARY MEETING, AUGUST 26, 1976

1. SUMMARY: MEXICO, BRAZIL, ITALY AND NIGERIA ADDRESSED

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 06841 271448Z

AUGUST 26 CCD PLENARY. MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY

GARCIA-ROBLES DECLARED THAT THE THRESHOLD PROVISION OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION CONVENTION PRESENTS "INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFICULTIES" AND CRITICIZED CCD'S LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARD A CTB AND A CW AGREEMENT. BRAZIL STATED SUPPORT FOR THE ENMOD DRAFT, BUT CALLED FOR FURTHER EFFORTS TOWARD DISARMAMENT MEASURES INVOLVING EXISTING WEAPONS. IN TOUR D'HORIZON, ITALY PRAISED RESULTS OF JULY INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR RECENTLY TABLED UK DRAFT CW TREATY. NIGERIA REPEATED CALL FOR ADOPTION OF ITS DRAFT CONCLUSIONS REGARDING THE DISARMAMENT DECADE, AS WELL AS FOR PREPARATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE NEGOTIATING PROGRAM DURING CCD'S SPRING 1977 SESSION CCD TOOK DECISION TO EXTEND SUMMER 1976 SESSION BY ONE WEEK. END SUMMARY

2. MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY GARCIA-ROBLES, COMPARING ARTICLE I OF THE EXISTING ENMOD DRAFT WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE PROVISIONS OF THE 1974 9:835 04909 -), CALLED THE PRESENT FORMULATION INSUFFICIENT AND AMBIGUOUS, DEPENDENT ON LARGELY SUBJECTIVE FACTORS. THIS, HE STATED, RAISES "INSURMOUNTABLE DIFFICULTIES"; UNLESS THE PHRASE "WIDESPREAD, LONG-LASTING OR SEVERE" IS DELETED, MEXICO WILL BE UNABLE TO SUPPORT THE DRAFT AND RESERVES ITS FREEDOM OF ACTION AT THE UNGA. GARCIA-ROBLES ALSO CALLED FOR THE DELETION OF THE WORD "PARTY" AT THE END OF ARTICLE I(1), THUS MAKING THE PROHIBITION APPLICABLE TO HOSTILE USE OF ENMOD AGAINST ALL STATES RATHER THAN ONLY AGAINST PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION. HE SAID THE CHANGES TO THE ENMOD DRAFT TO WHICH THE CO-SPONSORS HAD AGREED WERE MAINLY COSMETIC, BUT CONCEDED THAT THE ARTICLE V PROVISIONS RELATING TO A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS REPRESENTED A CERTAIN DEGREE OF PROGRESS.

3. GARCIA-ROBLES LEVELLED HIS HEAVIEST ATTACK AT CCD'S LACK OF PROGRESS TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN, SAYING THAT COMMITTEE HAS TOTALLY IGNORED UNGA RECOMMENDATIONS THAT THIS SUBJECT BE ACCORDED THE HIGHEST PRIORITY. HE REITERATED THAT MEXICO BELIEVES NATIONAL MEANS OF VERIFICATION ARE SUFFICIENT FOR THE PURPOSES OF A CTB, AND, IN SWIPE AT SWEDISH INITIATIVE, SAID CCD'S ESTABLISHMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 GENEVA 06841 271448Z

OF AN EXPERTS GROUP TO CONSIDER INTERNATIONAL SEISMIC COOPERATION SERVES ONLY TO "THICKEN THE SMOKE-SCREEN OF TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS BEHIND WHICH SOME NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES ATTEMPT TO HIDE THE ABSENCE OF POLITICAL WILL."

4. CCD'S CONSIDERATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, THE MEXICAN FOREIGN SECRETARY STATED, HAS BEEN LESS DISHEARTENING THAN ITS TREATMENT OF TEST BAN ISSUES. HOWEVER, HE WARNED,

WORK ON CW ALSO RUNS THE "RISK OF FALLING PREY TO TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS."

5. GARCIA-ROBLES COMPLAINED THAT CCD'S DISCUSSION OF ITS PROCEDURES THIS YEAR HAD GONE ON WITHOUT PRODUCING ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES. HE DECLARED THAT AS A MINIMUM THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE ENTRUSTED WITH PREPARATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON A PERMANENT BASIS AND A NEGOTIATING BODY SUCH AS THE ENMOD WORKING GROUP SHOULD BE INSTITUTIONALIZED RATHER THAN BEING ESTABLISHED FOR JUST ONE SESSION. HE ADDED THAT DURING ITS SPRING 1977 SESSION CCD SHOULD CONSIDER THE IMMEDIATE REVISION OF ITS PROCEDURES AND ITS STRUCTURE.

6. BRAZILIAN REP (MACIEL) SUPPORTED THE ENMOD DRAFT CONVENTION AS A WHOLE AND PARTICULARLY ITS RESTRICTED SCOPE (ARTICLE I), DECLARING THAT THIS IS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF THE CHANGES WHICH HAVE BEEN AGREED TO IN REGARD TO ARTICLE III (PEACEFUL USES) AND ARTICLE V (CONSULTATION AND COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE). MACIEL SAID PARTIAL MEASURES SUCH AS THE ENMOD CONVENTION ARE VALUABLE, BUT EXPRESSED DEEP CONCERN THAT "MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON GENERAL DISARMAMENT ARE AT A STAND-STILL, WHILE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, VALUABLE AS THEY MAY BE, REMAIN CONFINED TO THE REALM OF ARMS CONTROL AND ARMS LIMITATION." THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS SITUATION, HE SAID, "RESTS PRIMARILY UPON THOSE WHO SPEND THE MOST ON ARMAMENTS AND ESPECIALLY ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS."

7. ITALIAN REP (DI BERNARDO) DECLARED HIS SATISFACTION WITH CCD'S "RENEWED VIGOR" THIS YEAR. HE SAID THE INFORMAL CW MEETINGS WITH EXPERTS HELD IN JULY HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY USEFUL AND THAT THE RECENT DISASTROUS ACCIDENT AT A NORTHERN ITALIAN CHEMICAL PLANT ILLUSTRATED THE DANGERS OF CW.
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PAGE 04 GENEVA 06841 271448Z

VERIFICATION AND CONTROL ISSUES, DI BERNARDO SAID, ARE THE TOUCHSTONE IN CW AND ARE CERTAINLY DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX, BUT THEY SHOULD NOT DISCOURAGE EFFORTS TOWARD AN AGREEMENT. HE PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED THE UK'S RECENT TABLING OF ITS DRAFT CW CONVENTION, WHICH ITALY WOULD STUDY VERY CAREFULLY. MOST SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT OF BRITISH DRAFT, THE ITALIAN REP SAID, WAS ITS STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH. DI BERNARDO HOPED THE UK PROPOSAL WOULD LEAD TO AN INTENSIFICATION OF US AND USSR CW EFFORTS PURSUANT TO THEIR AGREEMENT ON A POSSIBLE JOINT INITIATIVE.

8. REFERRING TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL ON NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, DI BERNARDO STATED VIEW THAT SUCH DISCUSSIONS SHOULD NOT LEAD TO RESTRICTIVE INTERPRETATIONS OF EXISTING TREATIES, NOR PREJUDICE OR DELAY THE CONCLUSION OF AGREEMENTS

BEING NEGOTIATED. NEITHER SHOULD EFFORTS AIMED AT LIMITING POTENTIAL DANGERS CONSTRAIN BASIC RESEARCH, HE SAID, INDICATING SATISFACTION AT THE USSR'S ASSURANCE IN ITS AUGUST 17 STATEMENT THAT THE MDW PROPOSAL WILL NOT IN ANY WAY RESTRAIN PEACEFUL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

9. DE BERNARDO PRAISED THE CREATION OF THE SEISMIC EXPERTS GROUP, JOINING THE CALL OF SWEDEN AND OTHERS FOR THE WIDEST POSSIBLE GEOGRAPHIC PARTICIPATION IN ITS EFFORTS. THE RESULTS OF THE SEISMIC STUDY, DI BERNARDO SAID, COULD DISSIPATE A LARGE NUMBER OF PROBLEMS WHICH PRECLUDE AGREEMENT ON A CTB, AND WILL ALSO MAKE IT EASIER TO DISCUSS OTHER, MORE INTRUSIVE CONTROL MEASURES, SUCH AS THOSE INCLUDED IN THE RECENT US-USSR TREATY ON PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS.

10. NIGERIAN REP (CLARK), REFERRING TO THE MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE DISARMAMENT DECADE, AGAIN CALLED FOR INCLUSION IN CCD'S ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONCLUSIONS SET FORTH IN THE NIGERIAN WORKING PAPER. HE WOULD ALSO BE PREPARED, ALTHOUGH RELUCTANTLY, HE SAID, TO CONSIDER OTHER PROPOSALS, PROVIDED THAT CCD AGREES TO FORMULATE A GENERAL NEGOTIATING PROGRAM DURING ITS SPRING 1977 SESSION.

11. COMMITTEE TOOK DECISION AT INITIATIVE OF CO-CHAIRMEN TO EXTEND ITS SUMMER 1976 SESSION BY APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 05 GENEVA 06841 271448Z

WITH FINAL PLENARY TO TAKE PLACE NO LATER THAN MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 3. IN ITS DECISION THE COMMITTEE NOTED THAT THE EXTENSION WOULD ENABLE THE WORKING GROUP ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION TREATY TO COMPLETE ITS WORK.

12. NEXT CCD PLENARY SCHEDULED FOR 10:30 A.M. TUESDAY, AUGUST 31. CATTO

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